

Message Text

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TAGS: OTRA, ENRG, VE, PFOR

SUBJ: VISIT OF US NEWSMEN TO VENZUELA

1. CLIMAXING A WEEK OF CONCENTRATED EXPOSURE TO VENEZUELAN VIEWS ON OIL AND RELATED MATTERS, SEVENTEEN VISITING US NEWSMEN WERE DINNER GUESTS OF PRESIDENT PEREZ OCT 5 AT HIS RESIDENCE LA CASONA, WITH MOST OF THREE AND A HALF HOURS OF THE VENT SPENT IN LIVELY QUESTION- AND-ANSWER EXCHANGE. CHARGE, INFORMATION OFFICER NEWMAN AND OFFICERS OF CARACAS NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, SPONSORS OF NEWSMENS' VISIT, WERE ALSO PRESENT.

2. IN HIS DETAILED EXPOSITION TO HIS GUESTS OF THE VARIOUS THEMES CONTAINED IN HIS SEP 19 TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT FORD, PRESIDENT PEREZ INCLUDED MENTION OF THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- OIL PRICES ROSE TOO FAST, WILL NOT RISE ANY MORE, AND COULD EVEN COME DOWN A LITTLE AS A RESULT OF THE COMING GLOBAL DIALOG ON TERMS OF TRADE AND RESTRUCTURING OR WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER.

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-PEREZ-FORD TELEGRAM WAS IN NO WAY INTENDED TO LEAD TOWARD

CONFRONTATION BUT WAS PART OF DETERMINED THIRD WORLD EFFORT TO BE HEARD AND THEREBY PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY IN A DIALOG OF COOPERATION.

- OUTCOME OF CAMP DAVID BIG-POWER DISCUSSIONS ON ENERGY CRISIS SUGGESTS THAT THIRD WORLD VIEWS ARE BEGINNING TO BE LISTENED TO.

- HE HAS SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF USG'S CONCERNS OVER POSSIBLE BREAKDOWN IN WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM, AND BELIEVES THAT STRONG US LEADERSHIP BASED ON A SOUND AND PROSPEROUS ECONOMY OF ITS OWN IS ESSENTIAL TO SOLUTION OF THE GRAVE PROBLEMS FACING THE WORLD.

- VENEZUELA IS DOING ITS PART, AND ALREADY DEVOTES TWELVE PERCENT OF ITS GNP TO FOREIGN AID AND SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

- VENEZUELA SHOULD FOR SOUND CONSERVATIONS REASONS CUT OIL PRODUCTION IN HALF, BUT WILL NOT DO SO BECAUSE THIS WOULD VIOLATE ITS INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS.

- US OIL COMPANIES WILL RECEIVE FAIR TREATMENT. HE REJECTS CREOLE ASSERTION THAT THE NEW INCOME TAX WILL WIPE OUT ITS PROFITS FOR THIS YEAR, COUNTERING THAT PROFITS WOULD CONTINUE TO MOVE IN HIDDEN TRANSACTION BETWEEN CREOLE AND PARENT EXXON. OIL COMPANIES WILL RECEIVE FAIR COMPENSATION WHEN NATIONALIZED, AND THERE WILL BE A ROLE FOR THEM AFTERWARDS IN VENZUELA, WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO NEED SOME OF THEIR TECHNICAL, MANAGERIAL AND ECONOMIC KNOWHOW.

- ON CUBAN SANCTIONS, PEREZ REAFFIRMED HIS ALLEGIANCE TO THE OAS AS THE FORUM FOR WORKING OUT ANY POLICY CHANGE, BUT SAID THAT LATIN AMERICA HAD BEEN MADE RIDICULOUS BY THE SPECTACLE OF GENERAL MOTORS IN NEW YORK CONTINUING THE BOYCOTT OF CUBA BUT GENERAL MOTORS IN ARGENTINA EVADING IT. HE THOUGHT THE SPIRIT WHICH HAD BROUGHT DETENTE WITH RUSSIA AND CHINA INTO THE UN SHOULD NOW APPLY TO THE CUBA PROBLE. VENEZUELA, THE AGGRIEVED PARTY IN 1963, HAD NO THIRST FOR VENGEANCE AND WISHED TO LOOK AHEAD, NOT BACK.

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3. IN A LATE EVENING OFF-THE-RECORD ASIDE, PEREZ RECOUNTED HIS VERSION OF THE VISIT TO CARACAS LAST JULY OF US AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS AND THE SUBSEQUENT PRESS LEAK FORM WASHINGTON TO THE EFFECT THAT PEREZ HAD RESPONDED TO US PRESSURE ON THE TIMING OF MOVES IN THE OAS ON CUBA. HE PLAINLY CONTINUES TO ATTRIBUTE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LEAK TO THE DEPT OF STATE AND HARBORS A RESIDUE OF ANNOYANCE OVER IT.

4. IN ANOTHER OFF-THE-RECORD INTERJECTION, PEREZ DEPLORED WATERGATE AND SAID THAT IT HAD IN ONE SENSE DIMINISHED THE US PRESIDENCY, BUT THE OUTCOME DEMONSTRATED THE GREAT VITALITY OF DEMOCRACY IN THE US. HE HOPED AND EXPECTED THAT THE OFFICE WOULD SOON RECOVER. HE ALSO DEPLORED THE REVELATIONS OF CIA SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY IN CHILE OF EDUARDO FREI, AND WHAT HE TERMED CIA CONTRIBUTION TO THE OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE. HE SAID THAT THIS DID SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE US ADDING IN LIGHTER VEIN THAT IT COULD ALMOST LEAD SOME PEOPLE TO BELIEVE SUCH STORIES AS THE RECENT ONE FROM WASHINGTON ABOUT THE MARINES COMING ASHORE IN VENEZUELA TO TAKE OVER.

5. PRESIDENT PEREZ WAS A GENIAL HOST THROUGHOUT, AND HIS SERIOUS AND EMPHATIC DISQUISITIONS WERE SUITABLY LEAVENED BY GOOD-NATURED BANTER. BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND THE NEWSMEN SEEMED WELL PLEASED BY THE EVENING. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE NEWSMENS' VISIT TO VENEZUELA WAS BENEFICIAL TO US AS WELL AS VENEZUELAN INTERESTS. VENEZUELAN HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE THEIR SIDE TO US MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES, WHILE MANY OF THE QUESTIONS OF THE LATTER REFLECTED STRONG CONCERNS FELT IN THE US ABOUT OIL PRICES AND DANGERS TO WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER.

6. FOLLOWING COMPRISED VISITING US PRESS GROUP: JOHN GRANFILL, DALLAS MORNING NEWS; JOE COLE, ARIZONA REPUBLIC; HALVERSON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR; WALTER MASSEY, BIRMINGHAM NEWS; ROBERT BETTS, SAN DIEGO UNION; SANDY CAMPBELL, NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN; BILL SANSING, TULSA TRIBUNE; LOUIE DUINO, SAN JOSE MERCURY; TED BLANKENSHIP, WICHITA EAGLE BEACON; JIM MALONEY, HOUSTON POST; RICHARD STEWART, BOSOTON GLOBE; DON O NOEL, HARTFORD NEWS; KEN CANFIELD, KANSAS CITY STAR; DEACON NEW, THE OKLAHOMAN; HILE GOODRICH, DENVER POST; JAQUES DE SUZE, WTEV, PROVIDENCE, R.I.; JOSEPH TAYLOR, SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM, TEXAS UNIVERSITY. FISHER

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